

## Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, Jr.

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1903.

## Municipal Ownership.

The campaign in favor of municipal ownership of the town water-supply plant was officially opened on Monday night, when the Town Council adopted a resolution and fixed the date for a special election. An interval of four weeks has been allowed for discussion of the subject. Now that the taxpaying voters are confronted with this important issue of municipal ownership, the first question that will naturally arise in the minds of voters is "Will it pay?" There are those in the town to-day who are enthusiastic on the subject of municipal ownership, and they are ready with an emphatic declaration that it will pay. There are those on the other hand who quite emphatically declare that it will not pay. Between these two extremes there is a large class of people who are in a doubtful state of mind in regard to the subject, and their chief interest lies in the direction of the effect of the proposed change in policy upon the tax rate. This undecided element in the community is the one that will be appealed to by the pro-municipalists and the anti-municipalists in an endeavor to win them over to the one or the other side of the issue. Municipal ownership of public utilities is a subject upon which an abundant fund of information is obtainable. Much has been written pro and con upon the theory. Many instances of its successful operation are cited by its advocates, and equally as many instances of dismal failure are pointed out by its opponents. It is claimed that it is the ideal theory of successful and economic municipal life, and it is charged that it is an impracticable theory, a dependent upon too many contingencies to be successfully operative.

Upon investigation and inquiry into the success or failure of municipal ownership of public utility in places where it has been experimented with, it will unquestionably be found that the ultimate results, whether beneficial or disastrous, were due to existing conditions, and that is the test that every individual voter in this town ought to apply to the issue of municipal ownership here: Are the conditions favorable to its application? If upon a reasonable study of the subject, a taxpaying resident of the town is convinced that the town affords a favorable field for exploiting municipal ownership, it is the duty of such citizens to vote in the affirmative, and it is their right to exert their influence towards bringing others to their way of thinking and voting. On the other hand, the advocates of municipal ownership of the water plant must expect to be told by influential citizens of the town—men whose judgment in matters of business and finance is regarded as sound and correct—that the proposed purchase of the Orange Company's plant for \$90,000 is a bad fiscal policy and bad politics. Evidence will be cited in support of such declarations, and the facts that will be pointed out will be of a clear and convincing character. The prospects are that an energetic, earnest and serious campaign has opened, and one of vital importance to the welfare of the town.

## Will Not Asside.

Litigation connected with the will of Paul Sandstrom Brown is probably ended by the decision of the Court of Appeals, which sets aside the will. Brown was a banker, who made a fortune in Manhattan and lived in Brooklyn. He left about \$30,000 to his wife, Augusta Andree-Brown, whom he married less than a month before he died, in August, 1900. The case attracted attention because of the singular record Brown made in his diary. He was ninety years old when he married Miss Andree, who was twenty-eight. They lived in this town at the time, and the old man died here. In his diary, about the time of the prospective wedding, and after it, he wrote enthusiastically of his happy state. He left the house here and other property to his wife, Mortimer S. Brown, a Brooklyn lawyer and son of the testator, contacted the will on the ground that his father was incompetent mentally. His contention was defeated in the special term of the Supreme Court and in the Appellate Division, but the Court of Appeals has set aside the will on the ground that it is too defective and that it sought to restrict the estate during the lives of several persons, contrary to law.

## Basket-Ball.

The Orange High School basketball court has been removed from Battery A armory on North Clinton street to the Orange armory. The Northern New Jersey Inter-scholastic League has announced the following schedule for the Orange team: Paterson at Orange, January 13; Bloomfield at Orange, January 20; Passaic at Orange, February 4; Orange at Paterson, February 11; Orange at Bloomfield, February 18; Orange at Paterson, February 28.

Order your half-shell oysters for New Year's dinner at Hopler's.—Advt.

## One Thing at a Time.

The present Town Council is dealing with two big propositions, both of which involve a large issue of municipal bonds for their fulfillment. One of these is the establishment here of municipal ownership of the water plant; the other is municipal ownership of all buildings used or town purposes. Presented in a bare at to the first of these propositions calls for a bond issue of \$90,000, and the second a bond issue of \$30,000. It is assumed that the interest limit of these bonds will be four per cent. By using words quickly a great saving can be shown in favor of municipal ownership. Where the town now pays \$5,880 for water, it would only pay \$3,600 interest on a bond issue; where it now pays nearly \$2,000 in rentals, it would only pay \$1,200 interest—a saving of \$2,200 annually in one case, and \$800 in the other; but if the figures are repeated slowly and reflectively, such things as sinking fund, cost of maintenance and extensions suggest themselves, and tend to dissipate rosy visions of economy. It is probably unfortunate for either one of these propositions considered separately that they are both before the Council at one and the same time. It is rather a large dose of bonding to present to the taxpayers at one time. In rebelling against one, the people are apt to reject both.

There is no question but what the six members of the Town Council who voted in favor of calling a special election on January 19th to vote on the purchase of the water-supply plant in this town are sincere and enthusiastic advocates of municipal ownership of the water plant. They seem to be to the best interests of the town to own the plant from the standpoint of public health, as well as from the standpoint of financial economy. They are so mendably anxious to establish municipal ownership as a matter of public policy. The same line of argument—with the exception, perhaps, that the sanitary question does not enter in—may be used also for municipal ownership of town hall, fire-houses, and other public buildings; but it is evident that it will be difficult to push both projects through at one time. One or the other must be dropped, and definitely abandoned for a considerable length of time.

If the water question is the paramount one—and in the opinion of Councilmen municipal ownership is the best solution of that question—the matter of municipal buildings should be set aside, and the energy of the Council be concentrated upon securing a ratification of municipal ownership of the water mains by the people.

The people will look to the Town Councilmen for much and reliable information in regard to the advisability of municipal ownership of the water-supply plant, and the spectacle of the Council energetically urging that policy on the one hand and, daily with it, on the other hand, will not prove an edifying one, and public interests make it imperative that one of the two propositions before Council must be a side.

## Claim Individual Rights.

There are several theories of medical practice for the treatment of illness extant, and ardent advocates of each or any of them may be found. Legislatures and courts have of recent years been appealed to for the purpose of curbing freedom of opinion as to the best method of treating illness. This is resented as an infringement upon individual rights. The believers in what is known as "Christian Science" treatment are among those aimed at in the legislative and court proceedings. The Christian Scientists are keenly alive to the blows aimed at them, and have arisen in defence of their individual rights. Alfred Farlow of Boston says:

"While the Christian Scientists cheerfully grant their neighbors the privilege which they claim for themselves—their own choice of religion and medicine—they would not be inclined to lend any special support to any practice which is not demonstrably efficacious. They do not discard material remedies merely to be fanatically true to a religious belief, but because they have proved by actual experience that in so doing they are choosing the better way, not only for the adult but for the child. In this connection, however, it should be stated that they sometimes sacrifice personal liberties in deference to popular opinion and the fears and apprehensions of their neighbors; and, in pursuance of this policy, Mrs. Eddy advises that Christian Scientists shall not at present doctor contagious cases.

A parent is the natural guardian of his child and a Christian Scientist parent is not excepted. To him belongs the privilege of choosing a remedy for the illness of his child. It would be quite as unjust for the State to force Christian Scientist parents to administer medicine to their children as it would be to force parents who believe in the use of medicine to administer Christian Science treatment to their children. In either case, the action should not be governed by popular opinion nor by prejudice, but should be decided on the actual merits of the proposed remedy."

## Saved from Drowning.

August Ernst, twenty-one years old, of Spring street, had a narrow escape from drowning in Oakes pond Wednesday night. When rescued he was unconscious. Ernst was playing hockey, and in chasing the puck he fell into an opening where men had been cutting ice. The other skaters, among them William Meckler, hastened to the scene, and after several minutes' work Meckler, with his hockey stick, pulled Ernst out of the water. He was restored to consciousness and then taken to his home.

The holiday stock of glassware fairly dances with light at the Dorflinger stores. Sets and single pieces enclosed for gifts. 3 and 5 West 19th Street, near Fifth Avenue, and 36 Murray street, New York.—Advt.

## The Weaver Avenue Case.

In undertaking to open Weaver avenue in accordance with a petition for the opening, widening and improvement of Weaver avenue and Cedar street, the Town Council is venturing upon a delicate proposition and one that is full of legal difficulties. It appears as if the Town Attorney and the Legal Committee of the Council are not of the same mind with respect to course to be pursued in regard to the opening of the street. The Town Attorney's opinion rendered some time since appeared to be to the effect that the difficulties in the way of opening the street were of such a nature that the Council had better not undertake the work until more favorable conditions for carrying it through were offered.

The Legal Committee of the Town Council does not evidently attach much importance to the existing obstacles in the way of opening the street, and despite the Town Attorney's advice has ordered that the work go on.

The petition for the opening of Weaver avenue and Cedar street has been before the Council a long time. The required \$100 guarantee was deposited with the Council and bids were procured for the work. Owing to the opinion of the Town Attorney as to the inadvisability of undertaking the work, the contract was not executed and in course of time the deposit fee was returned to the petitioners. It appears that property needed for the opening of the street is subject to a mortgage covering a much larger piece of ground than is needed for the street. There is also a second mortgage of \$500 in amount, covering the particular piece of property that is needed for the street opening. Since the petition was submitted for the opening of the street a building has been erected on the property needed for the opening of the street. An impression prevails that the second mortgage and the building so complicate the case that a lively legal contest is involved in the work of carrying out the petition, and the Town Attorney's advice to the Council was apparently along the line of avoiding the litigation. The Legal Committee is rather disposed to covet the prospective fight and push the street through. If the party who was lower bidder for the work of opening the street when bids were solicited is still ready to undertake the work, the Road Committee has been authorized to award it to him, and the indications are that the moment the contractor enters upon the premises the war will be on.

## Glen Ridge Firemen Meet.

The Glen Ridge Firemen's Relief Association met in annual session Tuesday night and elected officers, as follows: President, Gilbert B. S. Mead; Vice-President, Edgar A. Moss; Secretary, Wm. E. Smith; Treasurer, John A. Brown; Members of Board of Visitors for three years, George W. Hulsart, L. S. Bigelow, E. C. Kendall, Peter Farley and Valentine Grobe. The treasurer reported a balance of \$465. A resolution was adopted asking State Senator J. H. Bacon for and Assemblyman H. L. Johnston to do all in their power toward the passage of a bill in the Legislature this winter restoring to active and exempt firemen the \$500 exemption which the Supreme Court a few months ago decided to be unconstitutional.

Skating and hockey are now the popular sports. For skating and hockey skates go to Chas. W. Smith's, No. 25 Broad street.—Advt.

## Broken Water Mains.

Taxpaying residents of Prospect street, East Orange, who journey to and from the Prospect street railroad station are of the opinion that the Orange Water Company did not get rid of its plant in East Orange one moment too soon. The reason for this opinion and the incentive for indignation, when it is expressed, is the money that it is costing the city to make repairs to broken pipes.

With a rush of water as it burst from the main, about 100 feet of the roadway at Prospect and Norman streets, East Orange, caved in about two o'clock on Sunday morning. The break was quickly discovered, and Superintendent Lorton C. McDermott of the water department was notified, and he hustled his emergency gang out in a hurry. They repaired the break in the main without shutting the water off in the neighborhood. Search was made for some one connected with the sewer department, and Clerk William Brown, who lives nearby, got out of bed, and, with the assistance of a laborer, placed barriers at the point of danger, and remained on guard for the rest of the night.

This is the third time, recently, that the street has caved in at this point. The roadway has sunk for about two-thirds of its width for a distance of about 100 feet. Mr. McDermott told a reporter on Sunday afternoon that he believed the trouble was caused by the sewer main, which is under the water pipe. It is thought likely that the earth was not sufficiently tamped originally, and that it had "arched" above the sewer pipe, and in the end had given way. It will probably cost several hundred dollars to repair the damage.

## E. K. Sargeant Dead.

Old settlers in Newark and vicinity, especially those living on the old turnpike running up through Bloomfield, Montclair, Verona and Caldwell to Boonton, will probably remember before the railroads were put through this section, the teams of Edmund K. Sargeant, as they journeyed between Newark and that place laden with bags of green coffee. Mr. Sargeant, whose death occurred Tuesday at Nutley, was the pioneer coffee roaster in this section of the State. His steam mill was located in Boonton, and was the distributing point for all towns in Northern New Jersey. His supplies of green coffee were shipped to Newark by boat and were trucked to the mill, several teams being used for this purpose.

## Married in August.

Miss Kathryn Belton, sister of Mrs. Thomas Blunt of this town, has surprised her friends by announcing that since August 9 she has been Mrs. M. Angelo Dillon, wife of an insurance man, formerly of this town, but now of New York. The couple were married by Rev. Rudolph N. Bender, rector of St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal Chapel, New York. Mrs. Dillon said that the marriage was kept secret because she and her husband were not ready to go to housekeeping at the time. Mr. Dillon is now in the West.

Skatees ground while you wait. Chas. W. Smith, 25 Broad street.

## Chas. M. Becker &amp; Bros.

Orange, East Orange South Orange Montclair

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THE  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
BLOOMFIELD  
Building and Loan Association

WILL BE HELD ON  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1904.

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK P. M.,  
At No. 27 BROAD STREET.

For the purpose of receiving the report of the Secretary and Auditing Committee; the election of three Directors for three years, one Director for one year, and one Shareholder (not director) as member of the Auditing Committee for three years; the payment of dues, interest, fines, and the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. Polls open from 8 to 9 o'clock.

New Series of Stock, the  
23d, will be opened.

By order of the Board of Directors,  
J. BANKS REPOD,  
Secretary.  
BLOOMFIELD, December 22, 1903.

BLOOMFIELD  
Savings Institution,

Office: 7 Broad Street,

Bloomfield, N. J.

SURPLUS, - - \$67,477.18

NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st

